

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Wyllie, Robert Evan, Col.

[War Department,
Washington, D.C.]

1920-1921

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Wyllie, Col Robt. E.

1920-21

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

February 17, 1920.

Mr. Arthur C. Wyman,
Assistant to Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York City.

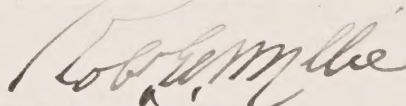
Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of February 3rd in which you request information as to whether or not Army medals and campaign badges could be furnished to the Royal United Service Institution for exhibition purposes, you are informed that there is no law which authorizes the exchanging with or giving to foreign Governments or to museums the medals requested.

There is a bill now before Congress (H.R. 7596) which, if passed, will authorize the Secretary of War to give to or to exchange with foreign Governments articles of ordnance, ordnance stores, equipment, etc., but until such time as this bill becomes a law, there is no authority for furnishing the medals and badges which you desire to the Royal United Service Institution.

I regret that I am unable to give a favorable reply to your request at this time.

Very truly yours,


ROBERT E. WILLIE,
Colonel, General Staff,
Chief, Equipment Branch,
Operations Division.

4
March 23rd, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wiley, —
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wiley:-

I am enclosing herewith the list of stars and badges which we lack and which you were to send us for photographing. I am very sorry that your telegram arrived yesterday when both Mr. Wood and myself were away for the day so I could not get these off to you any sooner. I am also enclosing copies of letters in regard to the American Field Service medal which Mr. Wood told you of the other day. These letters apparently supply all the necessary information in regard to the piece, and I think that it may be of service to you.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

March 25, 1920.

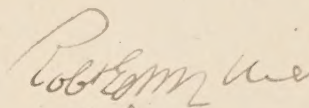
Mr. Arthur C. Wyman,
Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 155th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wyman:

Mrs. Wyllie will be at your place next Tuesday bringing the different badges. I have written Mr. Mac Gillivray of Putmans so he can make arrangements with you or the photographer as I want her to bring them back when she returns Wednesday night. They are all borrowed and I didn't care to trust them to the mail or express.

I have been unable to get a badge of the Order of Christ and the only thing I can get in place of it is a picture of the Order of St. James of the Sword. As you can see it is not a very good picture but I don't see anything else to do but use it. I am also sending you the Star of the Rising Sun of Japan to be used in place of the Portuguese Star.

Yours truly,



ROBERT E. WYLLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

March 25, 1920.

Mr. Arthur C. Wyman,
Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 155th St.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wyman:

Mrs. Wyllie will be at your place next Tuesday bringing the different badges. I have written Mr. Mac Gillivray of Putmans so he can make arrangements with you or the photographer as I want her to bring them back when she returns Wednesday night. They are all borrowed and I didn't care to trust them to the mail or express.

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Yours truly,

ROBERT E. WYLLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

Hold

March 25th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

Yours of March 25th received, and we shall be very glad to see Mrs. Wyllie and have the badges photographed. To avoid any possibility of delay I shall call up Mr. Mac Gillivay immediately, and I can get everything done so that Mrs. Wyllie can take the badges back Wednesday.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

March 25th, 1920.

Wyllie

Col. Robert E. Wiley,
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wiley:-

Yours of March 25th received, and we shall be very glad to see Mrs. Wiley and have the badges photographed. To avoid any possibility of delay I shall call up Mr. Mac Gillivay immediately, and I can get everything done so that Mrs. Wiley can take the badges back Wednesday.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

April 1st, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wiley:-

I mailed you last evening the prints taken by our photographer, and want to call your attention to one or two points in connection with them. First, the one upon which are the flying crosses and the French Croix de Guerre had to be printed very dark to bring out the flying crosses, and this made the Croix de Guerre too dark. The photographer therefore furnished us with an extra print of the Croix de Guerre which can be substituted by the Engraver. You will also notice that the ribbon on one of the Greek decorations was not properly folded and on another the top of the ribbon is on an angle rather than straight across as it should be. Mr. Wood assures me that both these can be fixed by the engraver if his attention is called to it.

We feel that the prints are extremely satisfactory, and hope you will be pleased with them. If there is any more that we can do be sure to let us know.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

April 16th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

The color plate people have now made the plates for the Naval D.S.M., the Navy Cross, the Siberian Expedition Shoulder Badge and the Marine Service ribbon, and will send the plates to Putnam's shortly. They did not make the Victory Medal as Mr. MacGillivray said that the artist who was designing the title page was still using it, and that as soon as it was ready he would communicate directly with the Color Plate Engraving Company.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

July 6th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
War, State & Navy Building,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

I have been thinking you might drop in some time and see one or two things which we have recently acquired. Among others, the Belgian Victory Medal, a miniature of the English Victory Medal, some miniatures of the English Flying Medals, and of the English Medal for service in the Merchant Marine in the War Zone. We have also got a new specimen of the Serbian Order of the White Eagle which varies slightly in design from the one already in our collection, although the variance is not great.

I am today sending a bill to Putnam for the photographs of decorations furnished you. I have held this bill for some time on the chance that you might have other photographs to be made, but I want to get the account straightened out now.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

September 29th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
Chief, Equipment Branch,
Operations Division,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

Would it be possible now for us to secure a copy of the Victory Medal together with the full set of ours? This is the only thing we now lack to make our collection of American medals relating to the present war complete, and we should be very glad to get one soon.

Mr. Wood has just returned from his trip abroad, and has asked me to let you know that in South Kensington Museum he saw a trumpet with a small banner attached to it. This banner was labelled a Banderole. I believe you were trying to get some authoritative information on the proper name for this when you were up here. I do not know that this name is correct, but it seems likely that the South Kensington Museum would be apt to know the correct title to be used.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

November 15th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
Chief, Equipment Branch,
Operations Division,
War Department,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

We are planning to devote our December meeting of the Society to the subject of the Victory Medal, and would like to take advantage of the offer you made us sometime ago to secure a sample of the medal with all bars. If I remember correctly you said that you could arrange this for us. In this connection you may be interested to know that I received Saturday morning a miniature of the American Victory Medal with nineteen bars which is now being sold in London. It is a very attractive little piece of work.

I have had several inquiries lately as to when your book was to be published. I presume it will not be long now for I learned the other day that Putnam had been sending out advanced sheets of it to several of the newspapers for review. I shall be very glad to see it when it does come out, and feel that it will supply a real need. A number of my friends in England have been asking about it, and requesting that they be notified as soon as it was on the market.

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator.

November 26, 1920.

The Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

In reply to your letter (which has been mislaid as I am not alive yet etc) regarding the Victory Medal and also, a medal not yet turned over to Mr. Moore of the Commission of Fine Arts for you several weeks ago. I have just spoken to the Commission about it and the Secretary informs me that he will forward yours to you at once by mail so you should get it very day. As fast you should have received it some time ago.

My wife's tells me that my book has been delayed and will not be out now until January.

Yours truly,

~~ROBERT H. STEIN,~~
Chief, General Staff.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

November 26, 1920.

The Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

In reply to your letter (which has been mislaid so I can not give you date) regarding the Victory Medal and clasps, a complete set was turned over to Mr. Moore of the Commission of Fine Arts for you several weeks ago. I have just spoken to the Commission about it and the Secretary informs me that he will forward yours to you at once by mail so you should get it any day. In fact you should have received it some time ago.

Putnam's tells me that my book has been delayed and will not be out now until January.

Yours truly,

Robert E. Willie

ROBERT E. WILLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

*Is there anything further I can do for
your writing on the Victory Medal?*

W.E.

November 29th, 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
Chief, Equipment Branch,
Operations Division,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

I am very glad to hear from you and
more so to know that the Victory Medal with all clasps
are on their way. I trust they will arrive before the
meeting. Do these include the Naval clasps, and if not,
can you advise me the best person in the Navy Department
to whom I should write for these.

I understand that in France they
call that band under the trumpet a *Flamme de Trumpette*.

I am sorry that your book is de-
layed, and I am still anxiously waiting to see it. I
also understand that the War Department has gotten out
some sort of a summary or compilation of the recipients
of the various award medals. If this is so, can we get
a copy, and if it is for sale, let me know how much?

I remain,

Yours very truly,

Curator.

December 1st , 1920.

Col. Robert E. Wyllie,
General Staff,
Chief, Equipment Branch,
Operations Division,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Colonel Wyllie:-

I have just now received from the Commission of Fine Arts the Victory Medal with bars, &c. May thanks to you for seeing that we have gotten these specimens. To whom shall I credit these on our books?

Again thanking you most sincerely, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Curator.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

December 2, 1920.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, Between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Yours of the 29th received. I am sorry to say that the Navy clasps are not with the others. I thought they were but I have found out my mistake. However I have taken it up with the Navy and Lieut. Springer of the Marines has promised to mail you a complete set of the Navy clasps, and I trust they will arrive in time for the meeting. There are eighteen Navy clasps. He is sending fifteen at once; the other three may be delayed for a little while; they are the Transport, Destroyer and Escort clasps of which there are none on hand at present, as all those submitted by the contractors were rejected as being faulty. They are exactly the same, of course, as the other fifteen excepting the name that appears on them.

The War Department has recently gotten out a book on the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal during the World War and I will get a copy of it and send it to you. The price is \$1.50.

I have paid the Public Printer

Yours very truly,

Robert E. Willie

ROBERT E. WILLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

December 3rd, 1920.

Col. Robert H. Wyllie,
Office of the Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Wyllie:-

Your letter of December 2nd just at hand, and I want to thank you most sincerely for the trouble you have taken in getting the Navy clasps, which I suppose are on the way.

I am enclosing cheque for \$1.25 for the book on the recipients of our various honors, which you said you had ordered for us.

Mr. Wyman wrote you awhile ago about the miniature of the Victory Medal made in England. I note they made a peculiar error on one of the clasps of this miniature, that is, they had Serbia instead of Siberia. Would you be interested in one of these with the nineteen clasps on. The whole thing cost us \$6.50, and you can have it at that price if you wish.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

December 9th, 1920

Colonel Robert E. Wyllie
Office of the Chief of Staff
War Department, Washington, D.C.

My dear Colonel Wyllie:

The Naval clasps came just in time for our meeting which was quite a success.

Mr. Merritt showed a Motion Picture of the process of making the Victory medal; the artist concerned in its creation, etc., and I gave a short talk of some of my experiences in Europe.

I have just received from England sketches of some of our medals, namely -

Army Distinguished Service Medal at 10/6
Distinguished Service Cross at 7/6
Army Distinguished Service Medal at 17/6
Navy Cross at 7/6

They are rather good work; and if you care to see them I will send them on.

Will you give me Lieutenant Springer's full name and address so that I can thank him for the Navy clasps?

Very truly yours,

Curator

EW/E

December 15th, 1920

Colonel Robert E. Wyllie
Office of the Chief of Staff
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Wyllie:

The book on the Congressional Medal of Honour arrived the other day, and it is certainly a most valuable document. Can you give me the date of the last Order in this so that we can get all subsequent Orders and keep it up to date? In fact, could you send us all of the subsequent Orders, and somehow enter the Society's name for all others that may come out.

Very truly yours,

Curator

RS/S

December 16, 1920.

Colonel, General Staff.

December 18th, 1920

Colonel Robert B. Wyllie
Office of the Chief of Staff
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Wyllie:

Your letter of December 16th arrived this yesterday.
Many thanks for Lieutenant Springer's full name.

I do not understand why you did not receive the cheque
in my letter of December 3rd. I have signed my name on
this and have sent out a new cheque, which is enclosed. I
am sorry that any mishap occurred.

Very truly yours,

W. J.
W. J.

W. J.

March 17th, 1921

Colonel Robert E. Wyllie
Office of the Chief of Staff
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Wyllie:

How is your book getting along? I have been so busy with other affairs that I had forgotten all about it.

I note in the papers that Congress has passed an Act to bestow the Congressional Medal of Honour upon the unknown British and French soldier buried in Westminster Abbey and under the Arc de Triumpha, respectively. I suppose this is a fact. I like the idea, and I expect the same honour will be accorded to our own soldier who will be buried at Arlington.

Where can I get in New York a 12-inch stripe of Victory ribbon? Or, if you have a piece handy, could you send it to me, and if there is any charge, let me know?

Very truly yours,

Curator

Hd/E

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

March 19, 1921.

Mr. Howland Wood,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose a piece of Victory ribbon for you. This is French manufacture and I prefer it to our own; ours is a little too flashy in its colors, this is more subdued.

The book was published and put on the market last week. I am very well satisfied with it and think that Putnam's did a good job. There should be reviews published at any time.

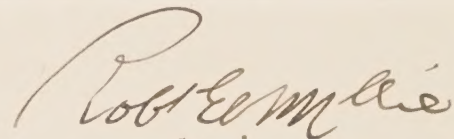
Yes, Congress directed the bestowal of the Medal of Honor on both the unknown British and French soldiers and ~~we~~ are now preparing the necessary citations.

I hope you will like the book.

Very truly yours,

1 incl.

lao



ROBERT E. WILLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.

March 21st, 1921.

Col. Robert H. Wyllie,
Office of Chief of Staff,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Col. Wyllie:-

Right after writing to you I learned of your book being out, and have gotten a copy, and have read most of it. This I have done with much pleasure and interest. As I wrote you when your article came out in the "Geographic" I desire to complement you on your clear and lucid manner of treating the subject. Not only have you made it enjoyable reading, but you have covered about all necessary details in as few words as possible.

I think Mr. Merritt is going to write a review for the Numismatist. If not, I will see that some one of us does it. It is too bad the plates are not numbered as it is not easy to refer from the text to the plates.

Many thanks for the Victory ribbon. As you say, it is really a little better blended than ours is.

Very truly yours,

Curator.

May 19th, 1921

Colonel Robert E. Wiley
General Staff
War Dept. Washington, D.C.

Dear Colonel Wiley:

In comparing the new Navy Medal of Honor with the Army Medal of Honor, I note that the stars on the ribbon of the Navy specimen have the two points up while on the Army ribbon the stars have a single point up. As far as I know, this is consistent with Navy and Army practice as the Navy officers have the star on their sleeve with two points up. The illustrations in your book have it the same way, but as I do not remember whether our specimens were used to make these illustrations, I am writing to ask you if this is the correct way of arranging the ribbons. I do not recall ever having seen any specifications for this.

We have received nothing of any consequence for some time.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
OPERATIONS DIVISION,
WASHINGTON,

May 20, 1921.

Mr. Howland Wood,
American Numismatic Society,
New York City, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Wood:

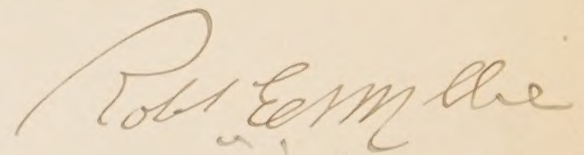
In reply to your letter of May 19th, the illustrations in my book were taken from medals here in Washington not from your collection and those samples show the stars exactly as you give them.

Also note that the stars are in the form of chevrons and on the Navy ribbon they are inverted. In other words if you turn the Navy ribbon upside down the chevron and the stars are precisely the same as in the Army ribbon. The Army is of course heraldically correct, the Navy is wrong, both in the chevrons and the stars.

The star on the sleeve of the Navy officers is placed with one point down in order to get proper distance from the braid it being easier to measure the distance from one point than from two. I doubt whether that had anything to do with the arrangement of the stars on the ribbon of the Medal of Honor. I think they simply made them in the ~~color~~ form and then reversed the ribbon when they put it on the medal.

Correct

Yours truly,



ROBERT E. WYLLIE,
Colonel, General Staff.